MARVEL
DOCTOR
STRANGE
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65
JUNE
CHARLATAN!

DOCTOR STRANGE
FORGET ALL THAT YOU HAVE EVER HEARD ABOUT MAGIC AND MYSTICISM!
ONLY I CAN SHOW YOU THE TRUE WAY!
STAN LEE PRESENTS:
A ROGER STERN-PAUL SMITH MASTERWORK
JIM NOVAK LETTERER
BOB SHAREN COLORIST
CARL POTTS EDITOR
JIM SHOOTER EDITOR SUPREME

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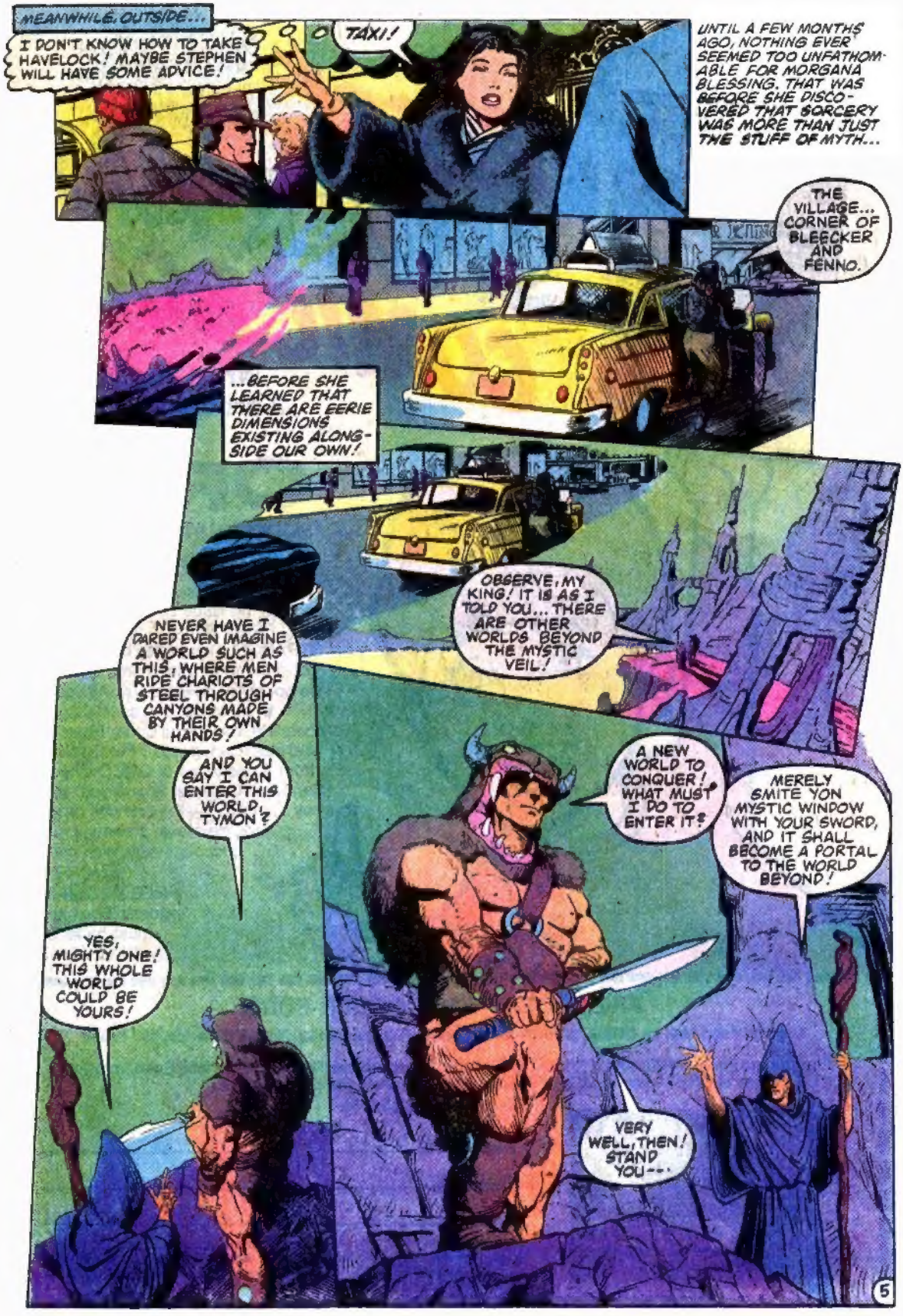
YOU WHO HAVE GATHERED BEFORE ME... WITNESS THE POWER OF THE TRUE MYSTIC ARTS!
BY BRUNON AND KOHLAHR... AND THE REALMS WITHOUT NAMES, PROTECT NOW THESE FAITHFUL FROM THE INFERNAL FLAMES!
JUDY, LOOK!
DIDN'T I TELL YOU, TINKY? HE'S THE GENUINE ARTICLE... A REAL WIZARD!
BUT NOT ALL OF THOSE GATHERED ARE CONVINCED...
I MIGHT HAVE BEEN IMPRESSED A YEAR AGO, BUT AFTER SEEING DOCTOR STRANGE WORK AXIS MAGIC--
--PRETENDERS LIKE THIS KERWIN HAVELOCK JUST CAN'T COMPARE!
HOLD! I SENSE A SKEPTIC AMONG US... SOMEONE WHO DOUBTS THE POWER OF MY SORCERY!
DOES HE MEAN ME? NO, HE'S LOOKING AT THAT WALKING CHIMNEY!
YOU, SIR!
YOU'RE RIGHT ON THAT SCORE, PAL! I'VE SEEN BETTER FIRE-WORKS ON THE FOURTH OF JULY!
DOUBT SITS IN YOUR MIND LIKE SOME FOUL, PSYCHIC MALIGNANCY! YES, AND THERE IS PAIN AS WELL... THE DOUBT SPRINGS FROM THE PAIN!
FROM THE WEIRDLING PLANES OF POHLDAHK BEYOND THESE MORTAL SKIES, LET ALL THAT'S VILE COME FORTH NOW... ARISE... ARISE!
HEY! WHAT'RE YOU DOING TO ME?!
2

I'VE MERELY LESSENED THE PAIN! IT IS UP TO YOU TO SEE THE GROUNDLESSNESS OF YOUR DOUBTS AND REJECT THEM!
DO YOU SEE?
YES... YES!
OH, LORD, I DO SEE!
I CAN NEVER REPAY YOU FOR THIS GIFT, KERWIN! CAN I LEARN THESE MYSTIC ARTS OF YOURS? TEACH ME... PLEASE!
THE MYSTIC ARTS ARE OPEN TO ALL WHO WISH TO FIND TRUE ENLIGHTENMENT, AND ARE WILLING TO INVEST THE TIME AND EFFORT. IF SUCH IS YOUR WISH, IT SHALL BE MY HAPPY DUTY TO SHOW YOU THE WAY!
"NOW, RETURN TO YOUR NORMAL ACTIVITIES AND PONDER WHAT YOU HAVE SEEN. A SEMINAR WILL BE HELD TOMORROW... FOR THOSE TRULY INTERESTED. REMEMBER, THIS IS A SERIOUS MATTER, NOT TO BE ENTERED INTO LIGHTLY."
GIVE YOU A LIFT? MY CHAUFFEUR'S PARKED RIGHT OUTSIDE.
BUT AS KERWIN'S AUDIENCE FILES OUT, ONE MAN APPROACHES THE MYSTIC...
HENRY, HOW GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN.
YOU COULDN'T KEEP ME AWAY! I'D LIKE TO REPEAT MY EARLIER OFFER. THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO STAY IN A HOTEL, WHEN MY COUNTRY ESTATE IS EMPTY!
WELL, MY RESOURCES HAVE BEEN SORELY TAXED--!
THEN IT'S SETTLED!
LISTEN, EVERYONE! TOMORROW'S SEMINAR WILL BE HELD AT FARRINGTON ACRES IN CONNECTICUT! AND I'M SETTING AN EXAMPLE BY MAKING A $1000 DONATION TO HELP COVER MASTER KERWIN'S EXPENSES!
REALLY, HENRY, YOU ARE TOO KIND!
NONSENSE! IT'S THE LEAST I CAN DO FOR THE PEACE YOU'VE SHOWN ME!
EXCUSE ME, MR. HAVELOCK? I'M MORGANA BLESSING--!
THE FAMOUS AUTHOR? I AM HONORED BY YOUR PRESENCE. YOU ARE INTERESTED IN THE MYSTIC ARTS?
A BIT, YES. AND I'VE BEEN ASKED TO WRITE AN ARTICLE ON YOU FOR NEW YORK MAGAZINE.
THEN I AM DOUBLY HONORED, BUT I SEEK NO ACCLAIM FOR MYSELF.
IF YOU MUST WRITE THIS ARTICLE, I WOULD RATHER YOU DWELL ON THE TEACHINGS, THAN UPON THE TEACHER. PERHAPS YOU WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND TOMORROW'S SEMINAR?
YES, I WOULD, BUT--!
3

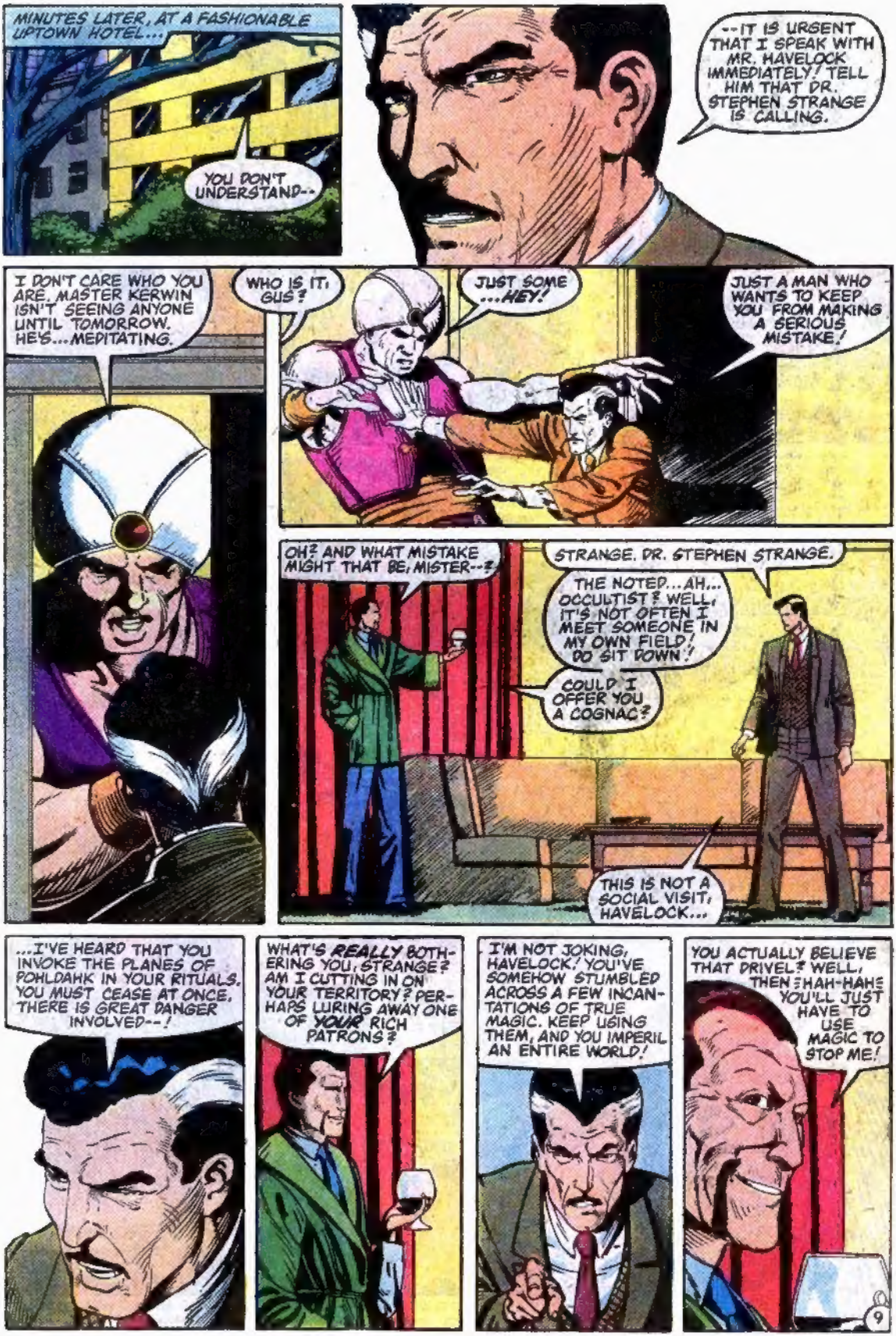
SAY NO MORE! HENRY, THIS CHARMING WOMAN IS TO BE MY GUEST AT THE SEMINAR!
OF COURSE, MASTER KERWIN.
THAT'S VERY KIND... THANK YOU.
BUT, NO SOONER ARE THE DOORS CLOSED, THAN...
YOU CAN COME OUT OF HIDING, FREDDY. THEY'RE GONE.
ABOUT TIME! IT'S STUFFY IN THAT BACK ROOM. HEY, HOW'D I DO?
MAGNIFICENTLY! YOUR "CYNICAL BUSINESSMAN" ACT WAS NEVER BETTER.
WELL, THERE'RE NO WORDS TO DESCRIBE THE PERFORMANCE YOU GAVE! IF YOU WENT ON STAGE WITH THAT, YOU'D WIN YOURSELF A TONY AWARD!
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF SHOW BUSINESS, FREDDY. MY CURRENT ENTERPRISE IS MUCH EASIER... AND FAR MORE LUCRATIVE!
HENRY FARRINGTON IS FALLING ALL OVER HIMSELF, SHOWERING ME WITH MONEY. BY WEEK'S END, I SHOULD HAVE ANOTHER HALF-DOZEN OR SO OF HIS VERY WEALTHY FRIENDS IN MY HIP POCKET.
SURE. JUST DAZZLE 'EM WITH YOUR MYSTIC RAYS, AND THEIR BANK ACCOUNTS WILL OPEN... AS IF BY MAGIC! HEH-HEH.
FREDERICK, I COULDN'T HAVE PUT IT BETTER MYSELF. BUT WE MUSTN'T BECOME TOO EAGER TO SCOOP UP ALL THAT LONG GREEN! PATIENCE IS OUR WATCHWORD!
I NEVER BROUGHT UP THE SUBJECT OF MONEY WITH YOUNG FARRINGTON. I DIDN'T HAVE TO... HE DID IT FOR ME! THAT'S THE WAY OF HIS CLASS-- ALWAYS THROWING MONEY AT THINGS THEY DESIRE.
AND ENLIGHTENMENT IS SOMETHING HENRY DESIRES VERY MUCH. IT'S A PITY HE DOESN'T REALIZE THAT THIS BRAND OF ENLIGHTENMENT COULD BE HIS FOR A FEW THOUSAND DOLLARS WORTH OF MICRO-ELECTRONICS!
THE TRUTH... THE LIGHT... THE WAY... AND A BIT OF GOOD TAILORING, TO BOOT!
I GOTTA HAND IT TO YOU, KERWIN, THIS IS ONE COZY LITTLE RACKET!
THE COZIEST, FREDDY. P.T. BARNUM OVERESTIMATED THE PUBLIC WHEN HE CLAIMED A SUCKER WAS BORN EVERY MINUTE... EVERY SECOND IS MORE LIKE IT!
4


MEANWHILE, OUTSIDE...
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO TAKE HAVELOCK! MAYBE STEPHEN WILL HAVE SOME ADVICE!
TAXI!
UNTIL A FEW MONTHS AGO, NOTHING EVER SEEMED TOO UNFATHOMABLE FOR MORGANA BLESSING. THAT WAS BEFORE SHE DISCOVERED THAT SORCERY WAS MORE THAN JUST THE STUFF OF MYTH...
THE VILLAGE... CORNER OF BLEECKER AND FENNO.
...BEFORE SHE LEARNED THAT THERE ARE EERIE DIMENSIONS EXISTING ALONGSIDE OUR OWN!
OBSERVE, MY KING! IT IS AS I TOLD YOU... THERE ARE OTHER WORLDS BEYOND THE MYSTIC VEIL!
NEVER HAVE I DARED EVEN IMAGINE A WORLD SUCH AS THIS, WHERE MEN RIDE CHARIOTS OF STEEL THROUGH CANYONS MADE BY THEIR OWN HANDS!
AND YOU SAY I CAN ENTER THIS WORLD, TYMON?
YES, MIGHTY ONE! THIS WHOLE WORLD COULD BE YOURS!
A NEW WORLD TO CONQUER! WHAT MUST I DO TO ENTER IT?
MERELY SMITE YON MYSTIC WINDOW WITH YOUR SWORD, AND IT SHALL BECOME A PORTAL TO THE WORLD BEYOND!
VERY WELL, THEN! STAND YOU--.

--BACK?
IT WOULD NOT BE WISE TO DO THAT!
BY THE GREAT BOAG! WHO DARES--?
I AM DOCTOR STRANGE! AND I STAND READY TO DEFEND THAT WORLD YOU WOULD INVADE!
WHAT MANNER OF SHADE IS THIS?
NO SHADE, MIGHTY ONE... 'TIS AN ASTRAL PROJECTION! ONLY GREAT SORCERERS CAN TRAVEL THUSLY!
YOU'RE A SORCERER... PUT HIM IN HIS PLACE!
BUT...
I REALLY HAVE NO PATIENCE FOR THIS SORT OF THING! MY WORLD IS PLAGUED ENOUGH BY WAR, I'LL NOT TOLERATE INCURSIONS FROM OTHER REALMS!
HE IS TOO MUCH FOR ME, MY KING!
SWEAR AN OATH THAT YOU WILL LEAVE EARTH UNTOUCHED, AND I SHALL NOT INTERFERE IN THE WORKINGS OF YOUR WORLD!
VERY WELL... I SO SWEAR.
BUT I WOULD DO WELL TO LEARN MORE OF THIS "EARTH", THAT BIRTHS MEN OF SUCH POWER.
6

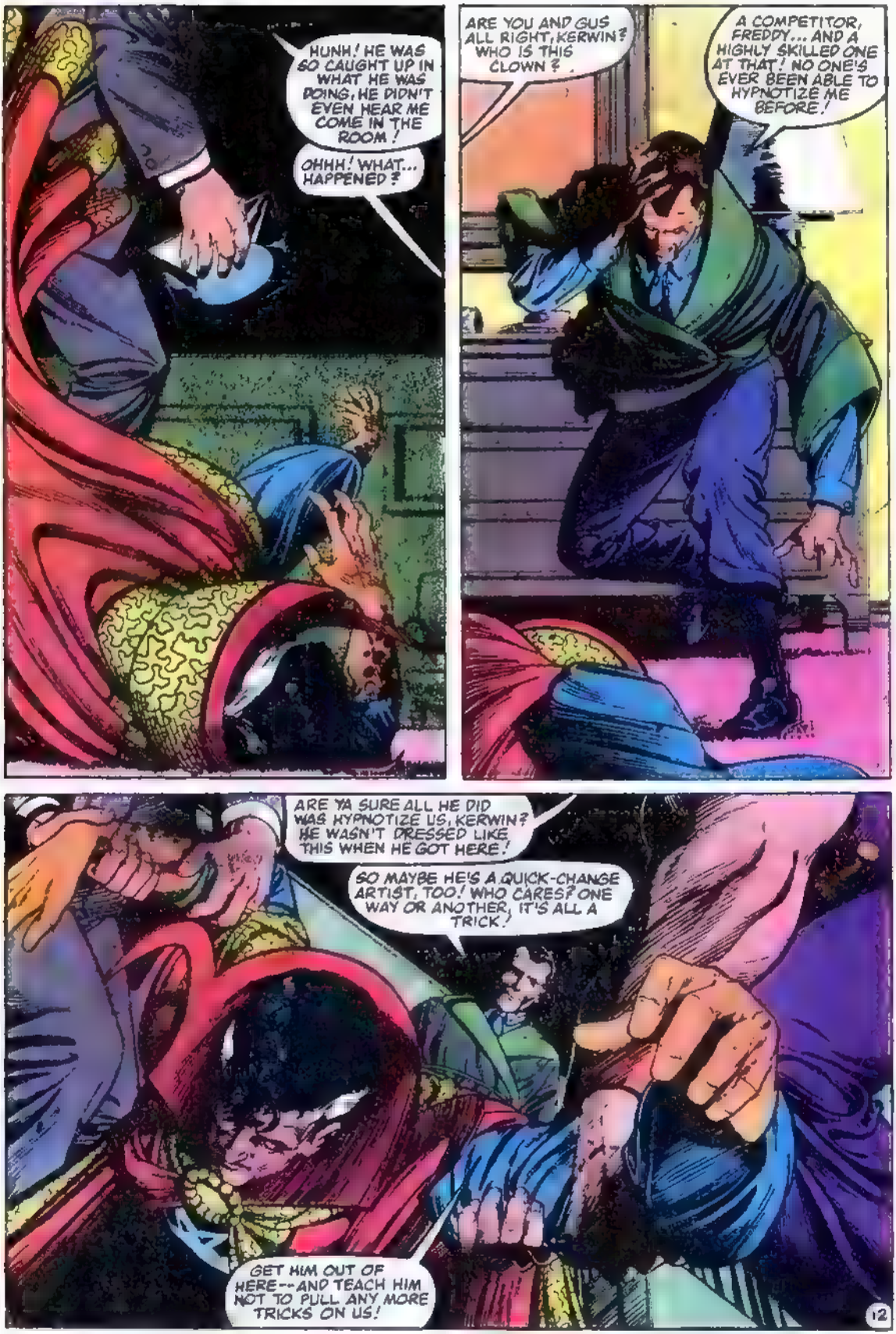
WARPING THE VERY FABRIC OF THAT OTHER REALITY, STEPHEN STRANGE RETURNS TO HIS HOME DIMENSION...
AH, THERE IS MORGANA, COME TO KEEP OUR LUNCHEON DATE. MY RETURN WAS WELL-TIMED.
IT WAS FORTUNATE THAT I SAW THAT WAR-LORD'S WIZARD PROBING EARTH IN MY ENCHANTED ORB. I MUST NEVER RELAX MY VIGILANCE, 'ELSE THIS WORLD MIGHT FALL BEFORE SUCH POWERS!
KEEP THE CHANGE, DRIVER!
UNBOUND BY PHYSICAL LAWS, THE MASTER SORCERER'S ASTRAL FORM EASILY SLIPS THROUGH THE SUBSTANCE OF THE ODD OLD HOUSE ON THE CORNER, AND REJOINS HIS MORTAL BODY.
THIS HAS CERTAINLY BEEN AN EVENTFUL MORNING!
A NICE, ORDINARY LUNCH WILL WILL BE A WELCOME CHANGE OF PACE.
AS THE DOCTOR LEAVES HIS CHAMBER OF SHADOWS, THE ALL-SEEING ORB OF AGAMOTTO SLOWLY DESCENDS BACK INTO ITS CASE, ITS OTHER-WORLD IMAGES FADING...FOR NOW.
DOC! JUST THE MAN I WANT TO SEE!
WHAT IS IT, SARA?
A MIRACLE, THAT'S WHAT!
EH?
7

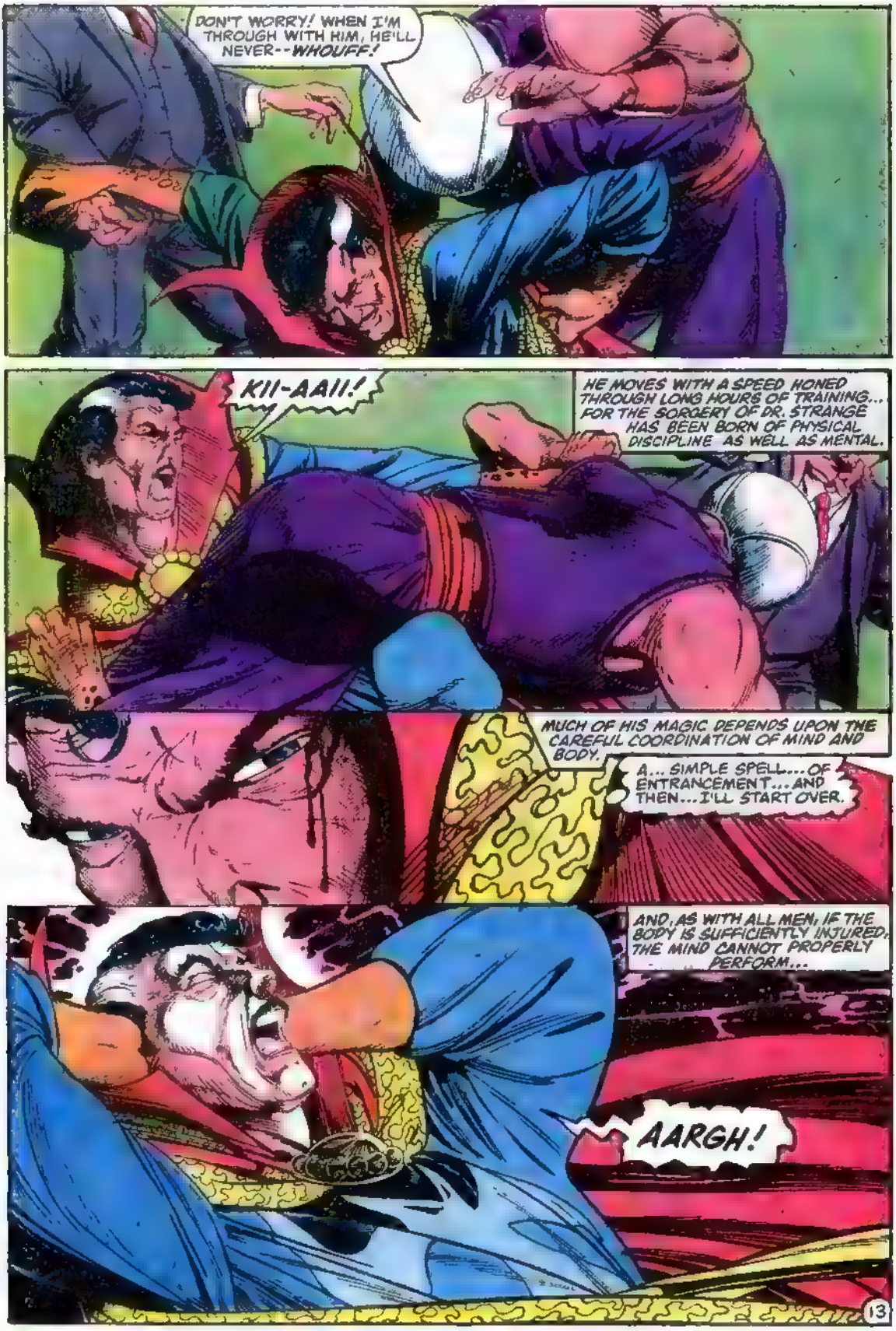
AFTER WEEKS OF TRACKING DOWN OLD RECEIPTS AND CHECK STUBS, I FINALLY GOT YOUR TAXES STRAIGHTENED OUT! YOU EVEN HAVE A $37 REFUND COMING! JUST SIGN ON THE DOTTED LINE!
A REFUND? THIS IS A MIRACLE!
I HAVEN'T HAD A REFUND SINCE I WAS A PRACTICING PHYSICIAN. I SHOULD HAVE HIRED YOU TO HANDLE MY BUSINESS AFFAIRS, YEARS AGO.
'MORNING, STEPHEN... SARA! I HOPE I'M NOT INTERRUPTING ANYTHING.
NOT AT ALL, MORGANA. I'VE JUST FINISHED A NASTY BUT NECESSARY CHORE, AND AM LOOKING FORWARD TO THE HONOR OF HAVING YOU SHARE MY TABLE!
MMM-MMM! THAT'S SWEET!
THIS MUST BE MY DAY FOR HONORING PEOPLE!
OH, WHO ELSE HAVE YOU HONORED?
LONG STORY... I'LL TELL YOU OVER LUNCH.
MAYBE YOU'D LIKE TO JOIN US, SARA?
THANKS, BUT I THINK I'LL JUST CATCH A BITE IN THE KITCHEN WITH WONG.
SHORTLY, OVER A SUMPTUOUS MIDDAY REPAST...
...SO, ANYWAY, THESE "ENLIGHTENMENT SEMINARS" ARE GOING TO BE TAKING PLACE AT HENRY FARRINGTON'S MANSION!
ASTOUNDING! I'VE HEARD OF KERWIN HAVELOCK, BUT I NEVER THOUGHT HE'D FIND ANYONE GULLIBLE ENOUGH TO FOLLOW HIM.
AH, WELL, ALL THOSE CHARLATANS TRIP THEMSELVES UP EVENTUALLY.
I DON'T KNOW. HAVELOCK WAS PRETTY CONVINCING ... WITH HIS INCANTATIONS TO POHLDAHK AND ALL THAT!
WHAT?!? HE CALLED ON POHLDAHK!? YOU'RE CERTAIN?
YES. WHY--?
THINK CAREFULLY... WHAT OTHER NAMES DID HE CALL UPON?
AND, AFTER SEVERAL TENSE MINUTES...
THAT'S ALL I CAN REMEMBER, STEPHEN.
YOU'VE TOLD ME QUITE ENOUGH, MORGANA.
IS SOMETHING WRONG?
I'LL KNOW AFTER I'VE HAD A TALK WITH MR. HAVELOCK.


MINUTES LATER, AT A FASHIONABLE UPTOWN HOTEL...
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND--
--IT IS URGENT THAT I SPEAK WITH MR. HAVELOCK IMMEDIATELY! TELL HIM THAT DR. STEPHEN STRANGE IS CALLING.
I DON'T CARE WHO YOU ARE. MASTER KERWIN ISN'T SEEING ANYONE UNTIL TOMORROW. HE'S...MEDITATING.
WHO IS IT, GUS?
JUST SOME ...HEY!
JUST A MAN WHO WANTS TO KEEP YOU FROM MAKING A SERIOUS MISTAKE!
OH? AND WHAT MISTAKE MIGHT THAT BE, MISTER--?
STRANGE. DR. STEPHEN STRANGE.
THE NOTED...AH... OCCULTIST? WELL, IT'S NOT OFTEN I MEET SOMEONE IN MY OWN FIELD! DO SIT DOWN!
COULD I OFFER YOU A COGNAC?
THIS IS NOT A SOCIAL VISIT, HAVELOCK...
...I'VE HEARD THAT YOU INVOKE THE PLANES OF POHLDAHK IN YOUR RITUALS. YOU MUST CEASE AT ONCE. THERE IS GREAT DANGER INVOLVED--!
WHAT'S REALLY BOTHERING YOU, STRANGE? AM I CUTTING IN ON YOUR TERRITORY? PERHAPS LURING AWAY ONE OF YOUR RICH PATRONS?
I'M NOT JOKING, HAVELOCK! YOU'VE SOMEHOW STUMBLED ACROSS A FEW INCANTATIONS OF TRUE MAGIC. KEEP USING THEM, AND YOU IMPERIL AN ENTIRE WORLD!
YOU ACTUALLY BELIEVE THAT DRIVEL? WELL, THEN: HAH-HAH! YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO USE MAGIC TO STOP ME!
9

VERY WELL, YOU GIVE ME LITTLE CHOICE.
YOUR WILL ... IS ... MINE...
THERE IS NO LONGER ANY NEED FOR ILLUSIONS OF NORMALCY. MY WILL IS YOUR WILL!
HEY, WHAT'S GOIN' ON HERE?
NO TIME TO MESMERIZE THIS ONE, BUT THE SILENT SPELL OF THE SERAPHIM WILL ROB HIM OF CONSCIOUSNESS LONG ENOUGH FOR ME TO DO WHAT I MUST!
OLYYYFF!
TURNING HIS ATTENTION BACK TO THE ENTRANCED KERWIN HAVELOCK, DOCTOR STRANGE RELEASES THE MYSTERIOUS EYE OF AGAMOTTO FROM THE GOLDEN AMULET AT HIS THROAT.
IN AN INSTANT, THE GLOWING EYE COMES TO REST UPON THE BROW OF ITS MASTER.
YOU CANNOT DECEIVE THE ALL-SEEING LIGHT OF AGAMOTTO, HAVELOCK... YOU WILL TELL ME HOW YOU CAME TO LEARN THE INCANTATIONS YOU USE!
IT STARTED... TWELVE YEARS AGO. I'D GOTTEN INVOLVED IN A SMUGGLING OPERATION IN INDONESIA. THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES TRACKED MY PARTNERS DOWN, AND I JUST BARELY MANAGED TO GET AWAY IN A SMALL BOAT.
"I MANAGED TO MAKE IT TO ONE OF THE LESSER SUNDA ISLANDS. THE SEAS WERE ROUGH, AND I HAD TO HOLE UP THERE A FEW WEEKS BEFORE TRYING TO REACH AUSTRALIA
"THE ONLY OTHER PERSON ON THE ISLAND WAS AN OLD WOMAN WHO GAVE ME FOOD AND SHELTER. SHE WAS A GOOD-HEARTED SOUL, BUT ABSOLUTELY CRAZY... SHE FANCIED HERSELF SOME SORT OF MYST C.

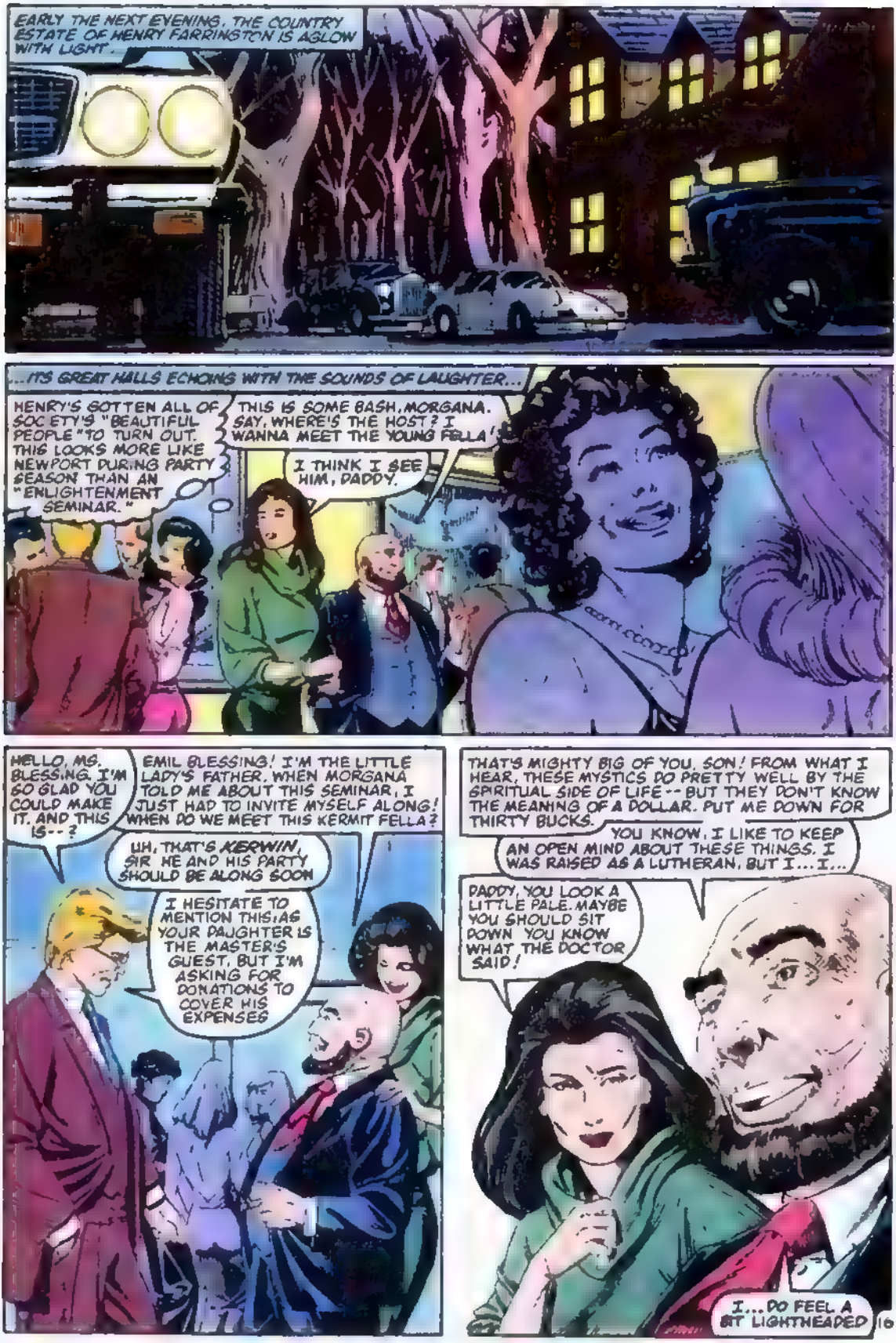
"ONE NIGHT I AWOKE TO THE SOUND OF HER SCREAMING IN HER SLEEP. SHE WAS BABLING THOSE INCANTATIONS LIKE SHE COULDN'T STOP... ALL GIBBERISH, OF COURSE, BUT THEY CERTAINLY SOUNDED IMPRESSIVE
"WHEN I ASKED HER ABOUT IT THE NEXT MORNING--SHE JUST SAID SHE'D BEEN CAUGHT UP IN A NIGHTMARE, AND DROPPED THE SUBJECT."
"CAUGHT UP IN A NIGHTMARE", INDEED! SHE MUST HAVE BEEN WARDING OFF AN ATTACK BY THE OVERLORD OF THE DREAM DIMENSION, NIGHTMARE HIMSELF!
WHEN I STARTED THIS "MYSTIC GURU" SCAM, I DECIDED TO USE SOME OF THE OLD WOMAN'S WORDS. IT SOUNDED MORE AUTHENTIC.
HOW LONG HAVE YOU USED THEM? HOW OFTEN?
TEN YEARS. FOUR OR FIVE TIMES A WEEK.
PRAISE OSHTUR, I'VE DISCOVERED THIS LUNACY JUST IN TIME!
YOU MUST USE THOSE INCANTATIONS NO MORE! I WILL ERASE THE KNOWLEDGE OF THOSE SPELLS FROM YOUR MIND BEFORE ANY MORE HARM CAN BE--!
WHAK
:UNGHH:
11

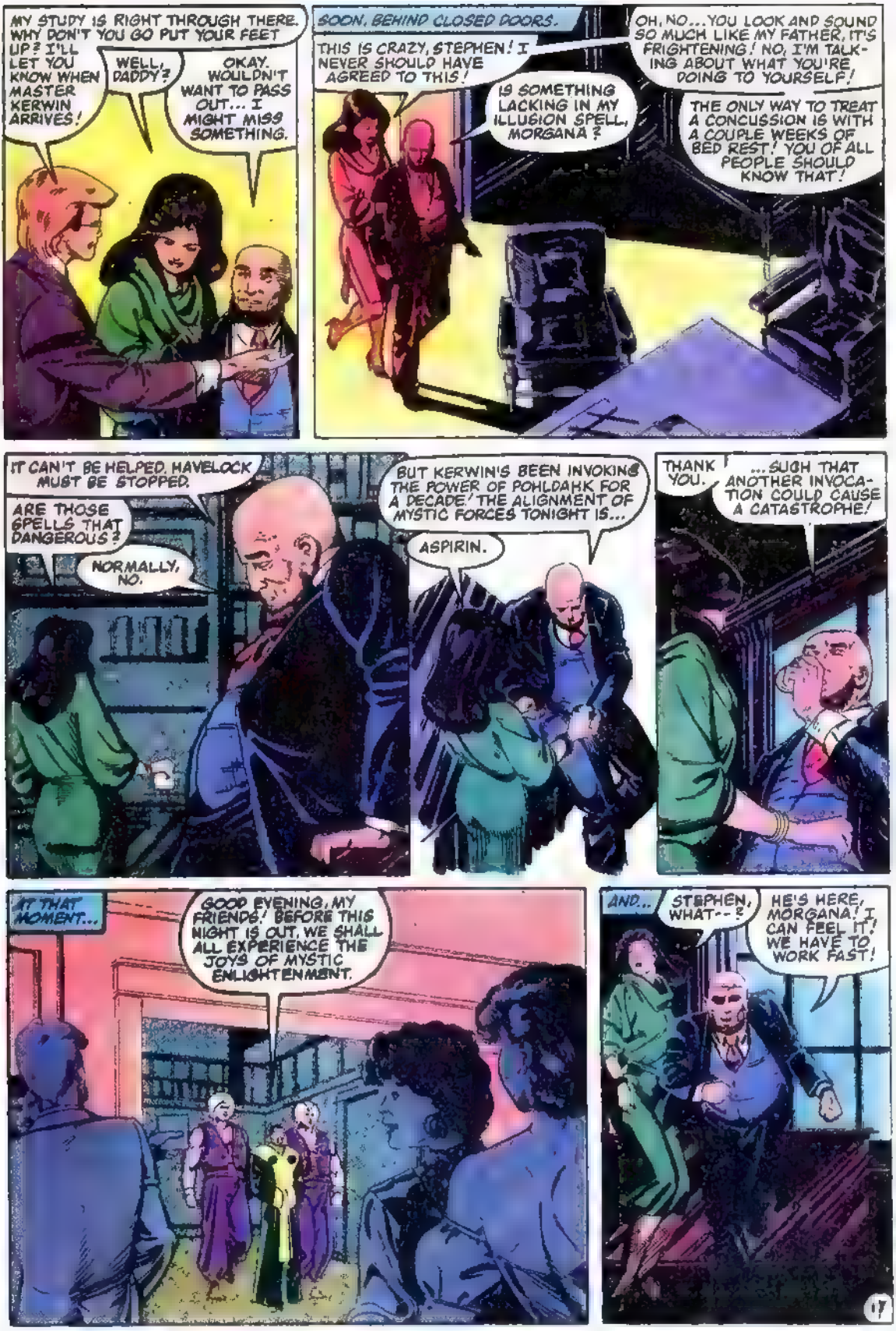

HUNH! HE WAS SO CAUGHT UP IN WHAT HE WAS DOING, HE DIDN'T EVEN HEAR ME COME IN THE ROOM!
OHHH! WHAT... HAPPENED?
ARE YOU AND GUS ALL RIGHT, KERWIN? WHO IS THIS CLOWN?
A COMPETITOR, FREDDY... AND A HIGHLY SKILLED ONE AT THAT! NO ONE'S EVER BEEN ABLE TO HYPNOTIZE ME BEFORE!
ARE YA SURE ALL HE DID WAS HYPNOTIZE US, KERWIN? HE WASN'T DRESSED LIKE THIS WHEN HE GOT HERE!
SO MAYBE HE'S A QUICK-CHANGE ARTIST, TOO! WHO CARES? ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, IT'S ALL A TRICK!
GET HIM OUT OF HERE--AND TEACH HIM NOT TO PULL ANY MORE TRICKS ON US!


DON'T WORRY! WHEN I'M THROUGH WITH HIM, HE'LL NEVER--WHOUFF!
KII-AAII!
HE MOVES WITH A SPEED HONED THROUGH LONG HOURS OF TRAINING... FOR THE SORCERY OF DR. STRANGE HAS BEEN BORN OF PHYSICAL DISCIPLINE AS WELL AS MENTAL.
MUCH OF HIS MAGIC DEPENDS UPON THE CAREFUL COORDINATION OF MIND AND BODY.
A... SIMPLE SPELL... OF ENTRANCEMENT... AND THEN... I'LL START OVER.
AND, AS WITH ALL MEN, IF THE BODY IS SUFFICIENTLY INJURED, THE MIND CANNOT PROPERLY PERFORM...
AARGH!

HEAD INJURY... IS MORE SERIOUS THAN I THOUGHT. MUST HAVE A CONCUSSION. HARD TO CONCENTRATE ON ANYTHING... BUT...
...I MUST GET OUT OF HERE!
GUS...FREDDY! DON'T JUST STAND THERE WITH YOUR THUMBS IN YOUR EARS! GRAB HIM!
BUT BEFORE KERWIN'S MUSCLE-MEN CAN MAKE A MOVE, THE GROGGY SORCERER SHIELDS HIS HEAD WITH HIS ARMS AND HURLS HIMSELF AT THE NEAREST WINDOW!
KLISSH
GOOD LORD! IT'S TEN FLOORS TO THE PAVEMENT! THERE'S NO WAY HE COULD HAVE SURVIVED! THIS WILL RUIN ME IF... EH?
NO! IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
FOR SEVERAL EXCRUCIATING MINUTES, DR. STRANGE STRUGGLES TO STAY CONSCIOUS AND KEEP CONTROL OF HIS CLOAK OF LEVITATION!
CAN'T RISK SPLITTING MY CONCENTRATION TO CONJURE A SPELL OF INVISIBILITY... HAVE TO KEEP LOW OVER THE ROOFTOPS, AND HOPE NO ONE SEES ME.
HAVE TO USE ALL THE CONCENTRATION I CAN MUSTER TO COMMAND THE CLOAK... TO KEEP GOING... ONLY TWENTY MORE BLOCKS!
THERE'S NO BODY! HOW--?
BAH! IT MUST BE ANOTHER TRICK! HE MUST HAVE PLANNED THIS FROM THE START!
FINALLY, AFTER A HALF HOUR OF ARDUOUS FLIGHT...
THERE... THE SANCTUM-SANCTORUM! JUST ...A FEW... MORE... YARDS...
14

KA-WHUMP
WHAT WAS THAT?! IT SOUNDED LIKE SOMEBODY DROPPED A LOAD OF BRICKS ON THE ROOF!
WONG! DID YOU HEAR THAT? WONG?!
OH, THAT'S RIGHT, HE LEFT FOR THE MARKET! I GUESS I REALLY SHOULD CHECK THIS OUT! MAYBE I'LL BE LUCKY...
...MAYBE IT IS JUST BRICKS!
OMIGOSH!
DOC!!
UHH... S-SARA?
YOU'RE BLEEDING!
I WAS HIT BY ONE OF HAVELOCK'S MEN... CONCUSSION, I THINK.
LET'S GET YOU DOWNSTAIRS, AND I'LL CALL THE COPS!
NO! NO POLICE! I CAN'T PROVE ANYTHING! AN ASSAULT CHARGE WOULD JUST DRUM UP PUBLICITY FOR HAVELOCK'S SEMINARS!
WE HAVE TO DO SOMETHING!
WE WILL. THERE ARE DIRE CONSEQUENCES IF HE IS NOT STOPPED. CALL MORGANA... TELL HER IT'S IMPORTANT SHE ATTEND TOMORROW'S SEMINAR.
AND NOW... I MUST REST.


EARLY THE NEXT EVENING, THE COUNTRY ESTATE OF HENRY FARRINGTON IS AGLOW WITH LIGHT.
...ITS GREAT HALLS ECHOING WITH THE SOUNDS OF LAUGHTER...
HENRY'S GOTTEN ALL OF SOCIETY'S "BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE" TO TURN OUT. THIS LOOKS MORE LIKE NEWPORT DURING PARTY SEASON THAN AN "ENLIGHTENMENT SEMINAR."
THIS IS SOME BASH, MORGANA. SAY, WHERE'S THE HOST? I WANNA MEET THE YOUNG FELLA!
I THINK I SEE HIM, DADDY.
HELLO, MS. BLESSING. I'M SO GLAD YOU COULD MAKE IT. AND THIS IS--?
EMIL BLESSING! I'M THE LITTLE LADY'S FATHER. WHEN MORGANA TOLD ME ABOUT THIS SEMINAR, I JUST HAD TO INVITE MYSELF ALONG! WHEN DO WE MEET THIS KERMIT FELLA?
UH, THAT'S KERWIN, SIR. HE AND HIS PARTY SHOULD BE ALONG SOON.
I HESITATE TO MENTION THIS, AS YOUR DAUGHTER IS THE MASTER'S GUEST, BUT I'M ASKING FOR DONATIONS TO COVER HIS EXPENSES.
THAT'S MIGHTY BIG OF YOU, SON! FROM WHAT I HEAR, THESE MYSTICS DO PRETTY WELL BY THE SPIRITUAL SIDE OF LIFE -- BUT THEY DON'T KNOW THE MEANING OF A DOLLAR. PUT ME DOWN FOR THIRTY BUCKS.
YOU KNOW, I LIKE TO KEEP AN OPEN MIND ABOUT THESE THINGS. I WAS RAISED AS A LUTHERAN, BUT I... I...
DADDY, YOU LOOK A LITTLE PALE. MAYBE YOU SHOULD SIT DOWN. YOU KNOW WHAT THE DOCTOR SAID!
I... DO FEEL A BIT LIGHTHEADED
16


MY STUDY IS RIGHT THROUGH THERE. WHY DON'T YOU GO PUT YOUR FEET UP? I'LL LET YOU KNOW WHEN MASTER KERWIN ARRIVES!
WELL, DADDY?
OKAY. WOULDN'T WANT TO PASS OUT... I MIGHT MISS SOMETHING.
SOON. BEHIND CLOSED DOORS.
THIS IS CRAZY, STEPHEN! I NEVER SHOULD HAVE AGREED TO THIS!
IS SOMETHING LACKING IN MY ILLUSION SPELL, MORGANA?
OH, NO... YOU LOOK AND SOUND SO MUCH LIKE MY FATHER, IT'S FRIGHTENING! NO, I'M TALKING ABOUT WHAT YOU'RE DOING TO YOURSELF!
THE ONLY WAY TO TREAT A CONCUSSION IS WITH A COUPLE WEEKS OF BED REST! YOU OF ALL PEOPLE SHOULD KNOW THAT!
IT CAN'T BE HELPED. HAVELOCK MUST BE STOPPED.
ARE THOSE SPELLS THAT DANGEROUS?
NORMALLY, NO.
BUT KERWIN'S BEEN INVOKING THE POWER OF POHLDAHK FOR A DECADE! THE ALIGNMENT OF MYSTIC FORCES TONIGHT IS...
ASPIRIN.
THANK YOU.
...SUCH THAT ANOTHER INVOCATION COULD CAUSE A CATASTROPHE!
AT THAT MOMENT...
GOOD EVENING, MY FRIENDS! BEFORE THIS NIGHT IS OUT, WE SHALL ALL EXPERIENCE THE JOYS OF MYSTIC ENLIGHTENMENT.
AND..
STEPHEN, WHAT--?
HE'S HERE, MORGANA! I CAN FEEL IT! WE HAVE TO WORK FAST!
17

THE ROAD TO ENLIGHTENMENT BEGINS WITH THE SEARCH FOR INNER PEACE AND CULMINATES WITH THE RECOGNITION OF THE MYSTIC CALL.
ONE SIDE! EXCUSE ME! LET ME THROUGH!
I MUST GET CLOSE ENOUGH TO ENTRANCE HIM BEFORE HE CAN BEGIN THE SPELL!
BUT EVEN AS THE DISGUISED SORCERER CLOSES THE GAP, ANOTHER SEARING HEADACHE SLICES THROUGH HIS BRAIN...
GAAGH!
AND, AS CONCENTRATION FALLS, SO DOES THE ILLUSION!
MR. BLESSING, WHAT--?!?
THIS MAN IS NO BLESSING! HE IS AN INFIDEL ...AN ENEMY OF THE TRUTH! BUT I CAN DEAL WITH HIS KIND!
HAVELOCK... LISTEN TO ME...
...YOU'VE BEEN DEALING WITH FORCES BEYOND YOUR COMMAND! IN THE NAME OF HUMANITY, DON'T INVOKE--!
HEAR THAT, FAITHFUL ONES? HE FEARS THE TRUTH MY MAGIC REVEALS! BUT I SHALL NOT BE DENIED!
FROM THE WEIRDLING PLANES OF POHLOAHK BEYOND THESE MORTAL SKIES, LET ALL THAT'S VILE COME FORTH NOW...
18

ARISE... A...RISE?
THERE IS A MOMENT OF INCREDULOUS CONFUSION, AS KERWIN SUDDENLY REALIZES THAT THE EERIE RADIANCE ABOUT HIM DOES NOT COME SOLELY FROM HIS HIDDEN ELECTRONICS...
WORLDS AWAY, ON ONE OF THE PLANES OF POHLOAHK, A HORDE OF DEMONIC CREATURES GATHER EXPECTANTLY BY THE TRANSDIMENSIONAL WARP WHICH, AFTER TEN YEARS OF UNINTENDED SPELLS, IS AT LAST FULLY FORMED!
AND THEN, FROM BEYOND THESE POOR MORTAL SKIES, ALL THAT IS VILE COMES FORTH!
KAI
THEY SPEAK IN TONGUES UNKNOWN TO MAN, BUT THEIR INTENT CANNOT BE MISTAKEN!
FSH
SOMEBODY... ANYBODY... HELP!!!
19

BUT THERE IS ONLY ONE MAN IN THIS ROOM --OR IN ALL THE WORLD --WHO STANDS A CHANCE NOW OF STOPPING THIS UNEARTHLY HORDE!
THE PAIN... IS SUBSIDING SOMEWHAT. BUT MY HEAD'S STILL THROBBING... FEVER'S BUILDING.
CAN'T EVEN RISK ERECTING A MYSTIC SHIELD TO PROTECT THESE PEOPLE... I MUST STRIKE BACK WHILE I CAN!
GET BACK-- ALL OF YOU!
AND, CALLING UPON ALL THE MAGICAL ENERGY HE CAN MUSTER, DR. STRANGE RETURNS THE DEMON-HORDE'S ATTACK IN KIND!
WHILE AT THE FAR END OF THE ROOM, EVEN GREATER HORRORS STRUGGLE TO ENTER AND INVADE OUR REALITY!
AAAA
NO GOOD... I'M JUST BARELY HOLDING THESE CREATURES AT BAY. I MUST DRIVE THEM BACK, BUT MY HEAD'S... POUNDING LIKE A TRIPHAMMER.
THERE IS ONLY ONE RECOURSE. I'LL BE SEVERELY DRAINED AFTERWARD, BUT THAT CAN'T BE HELPED. IF I DON'T DO IT NOW, ALL WILL BE LOST!
20

HEAR ME NOW, O WISE VISHANTI! GRANT MY PLEA FOR STRENGTH ANEW-- THAT I MIGHT SAVE ALL INNOCENTS FROM THIS UNHOLY CREW!
WINDS OF WATOOMB BUILD AND SWIRL 'ROUND THESE CREATURES SO PROFANE...
...LET THE FLAWLESS FLAMES OF FALTINE DRIVE THEM BACK TO POHLDAHK'S PLANE!
WHUG
AT ONCE, IN RESPONSE TO THE SORCERER'S SPELL, THE GREAT HALL IS SHAKEN BY THE CYCLONIC WINDS WHICH YANK THE CREATURES OFF THEIR FEET!
THE MEN AND WOMAN HUDDLING IN THE CORNERS OF THE CHAMBER LOOK ON IN FEARFUL WONDER AS, ONE BY ONE, THE DEMONS ARE DRAWN BACK THROUGH THE HOLE IN SPACE! AND THEN--

--WHEN THE LAST OF THE INVADING HORDE HAS VANISHED, SO TOO DOES THE CURSED GATEWAY!
KRA-KA-THOOM
VISHANTI BE PRAISED! IT WORKED! THE WARP IS SEALED!
STEPHEN! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
FOR THE TIME BEING, MORGANA! I ONLY HOPE I HAVE THE WHEREWITHAL TO DO WHAT MUST BE DONE NEXT!
YOU PEOPLE... YOU HAVE ALL SEEN TRUE MYSTIC FORCES IN ACTION. DO ANY OF YOU WISH TO REMEMBER WHAT YOU HAVE SEEN?
NO.
NO.
I WISH I WAS NEVER HERE!
VERY WELL... BY THE POWER OF AGAMOTTO'S LIGHT, LET THE MEMORY OF THIS HORROR FADE. REMEMBER AND QUESTION NAUGHT!
NOW... LET US LEAVE, MORGANA. I FEEL A GREAT WEARINESS.
S-STRANGE! WAIT!
22

WHAT ABOUT ME? I-I STILL REMEMBER THE MAGIC WORDS... I REMEMBER EVERYTHING! AND I DON'T WANT TO!!
THAT IS CORRECT. I HAVE MYSTICALLY ARRANGED THAT YOU WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO UTTER THOSE WORDS AGAIN. BUT YOU WILL REMEMBER THE EVENTS OF THIS NIGHT... FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE!
THAT IS YOUR PUNISHMENT. THAT IS YOUR.... ENLIGHTENMENT!
END